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> IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA RICHMOND DIVISION

- - - - - - - - - x In re: : Chapter 11 CIRCUIT CITY STORES, INC., : Case No. 08-35653 (KRH) et al., Debtors. : Jointly Administered

DEBTORS' OBJECTION TO MOTION OF APEX DIGITAL, INC. AND THQ, INC. FOR RECONSIDERATION OF COURT'S ORDER ON DEBTORS' FIFTY-FIRST AND FIFTY-SECOND OMNIBUS OBJECTIONS

The debtors and debtors in possession in the above-captioned cases (collectively, the "Debtors")1

The Debtors and the last four digits of their respective taxpayer identification numbers are as follows: Circuit City (cont'd)

hereby submit this objection (the "Objection") to the Motion of Apex Digital, Inc. and THQ, Inc. for Reconsideration of Court's Order on Debtors' Fifty-First and Fifty-Second Omnibus Objections (the "Reconsideration Motion"). In support of the Objection, the Debtors respectfully represent as follows:

#### BACKGROUND

- A. The Omnibus Objections, The Related Pleadings, And The Hearing.
- 1. On October 13, 2009, the Debtors filed their fifty-first and fifty-second omnibus objections to claims (D.I.s 5214 & 5216; the "Omnibus Objections").

  On that same date, the Debtors also filed briefs in support of the Omnibus Objections (D.I.s 5215 & 5217; the "Briefs"). By the Omnibus Objections and related

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Stores, Inc. (3875), Circuit City Stores West Coast, Inc. (0785), InterTAN, Inc. (0875), Ventoux International, Inc. (1838), Circuit City Purchasing Company, LLC (5170), CC Aviation, LLC (0841), CC Distribution Company of Virginia, Inc. (2821), Circuit City Properties, LLC (3353), Kinzer Technology, LLC (2157), Abbott Advertising Agency, Inc. (4659), Patapsco Designs, Inc.(6796), Sky Venture Corp. (0311), PRAHS, Inc.(n/a), XSStuff, LLC (9263), Mayland MN, LLC (6116), Courchevel, LLC (n/a), Orbyx Electronics, LLC (3360), and Circuit City Stores PR, LLC (5512). The address for Circuit City Stores West Coast, Inc. is 9250 Sheridan Boulevard, Westminster, Colorado 80031. For all other Debtors, the address was 9950 Mayland Drive, Richmond, Virginia 23233 and currently is 4951 Lake Brook Drive, Glen Allen, VA 23060.

Briefs, the Debtors sought to temporarily disallow certain 503(b)(9) claims using section 502(d) of title 11, United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code").

2. Thereafter, various creditors, including Apex Digital, Inc. and THQ, Inc. (the "Movants"), filed responses to the Omnibus Objections (collectively, the "Responses") asserting that the Omnibus Objections should be overruled on various procedural and substantive grounds.<sup>2</sup>

(cont'd)

See Response of Samsung America Inc. to Debtors' Fifty-First Omnibus Objection to Claims (D.I. 5411); PNY Technologies, Inc.'s Response to Debtors Fifty-First Omnibus Objection to Claims (D.I. 5416); Response of Onkyo USA Corporation in Opposition to Debtors' Fifty-First Omnibus Objection to Claims (D.I. 5447); Mitsubishi Digital Electronics America, Inc.'s Response to Debtor's Fifty-First Omnibus Objection to Claims (D.I. 5454); Response of Digital Innovations, LLC on Behalf of VonWin Capital Management, LP to Debtors' Fifty-First Omnibus Objection to Claims (D.I. 5470); Response of Longacre Opportunity Fund, L.P. to Debtors' Fifty-First Omnibus Objection to Claims (D.I. 5472); Envision Peripherals, Inc.'s Memorandum of Law in Opposition to Debtors' Fifty-First Omnibus Objection to Claims (D.I. 5475); Response and Joinder of JVC Americas Corp. and JVC Company of America to Debtors' Fifty-First Omnibus Objection to Claims (D.I. 5479); Response of Olympus Corporation and Olympus Imaging America, Inc. to Debtors' (I) Fifty-First Omnibus Objection to Claims (D.I. 5529); Response of Hauppage Computer Works, Inc. to Debtors' Fifty-First Omnibus Objection to Claims (D.I. 5530); Response of United States Debt Recovery, LLC to Debtor's Fifty-First Omnibus Objection to Claims (D.I. 5535); Response and Objection of Midland Radio Corporation to Debtors' Fifty-First Omnibus Objection to Claims (D.I. 5537); Response and Objection of Bethesda Softworks LLCto Debtors' Fifty-First Omnibus Objection to Claims (D.I. 5539); Response of TeleDynamics LLP in Opposition to Debtors' Fifty-First Omnibus Objection to Claims (D.I. 5610); Metra Electronics Corporation's Opposition to Debtor's Fifty-First Omnibus Objection to Claims (D.I. 5487);

- 3. On November 10, 2009, the Debtors' filed their omnibus reply briefs to the Responses (D.I. 5621 and 5622; together, the "Omnibus Replies").
- 4. Thereafter, on November 12, 2009, this Court held a hearing (the "Hearing") to consider, in

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Response of Sima Products Corp. to Debtors' Fifty-First Omnibus Objection to Claims (D.I. 5491); Joint Response of THQ, Inc. and Apex Digital, Inc. to Debtors' Fifty-First Omnibus Objection to Claims (D.I. 5497); Tamrac, Inc.'s Opposition to Debtor's Fifty-First Omnibus Objection (D.I. 5498); Response of Nyko Technologies, Inc. to Debtors' Fifty-First Omnibus Objection to Claims (D.I. 5499); Response of SouthPeak Interactive, LLC to Debtors' Fifty-First Omnibus Objection to Claims (D.I. 5502); Bush Industries Inc.'s Response and Joinder Regarding Debtors' Fifty-First Omnibus Objection to Claims (D.I. 5505); Joinder of Vonage Marketing LLC to the Responses Filed by SouthPeak Interactive, LLC and Nyko Technologies, Inc to Debtors' Fifty-First Omnibus Objection to Claims (D.I. 5506); Omnibus Response of Vonwin Capital Management, L.P. to Debtors' Forty-Eighth, Forty-Ninth, Fiftieth and Fifty-First Omnibus Objections (D.I. 5509); Response in Opposition of BISSELL Homecare, Inc. to Debtors' Fifty-First Omnibus Objection to Claims (D.I. 5511); Cokem International, Inc.'s Response to the Debtor's Fifty-First Omnibus Objection (D.I. 5515); Response of Paramount Home Entertainment Inc. to Debtors' Fifty-Second Omnibus Objection to Claims (D.I. 5434); Response of SanDisk Corporation to Debtors' (I) Fifty-Second Omnibus Objection to Claims (D.I. 5449); Pioneer Electronics' Response to Debtors' Fifty-Second Omnibus Objection to Claims (D.I. 5464); LG Electronics USA, Inc.'s Memorandum of Law in Opposition to Debtors' Fifty-Second Omnibus Objection to Claims (D.I. 5489); Response of Toshiba America Consumer Products, L.L.C. to Debtors' Fifty-Second Omnibus Objection to Claims (D.I. 5495); Response of Samsung Electronics America, Inc. to Debtors' Fifty-Second Omnibus Objection to Claims (D.I. 5496); Samsung Electronics America, Inc.'s Memorandum of Law in Opposition to Debtors' Fifty-Second Omnibus Objection to Claims (D.I. 5500); Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment LLC's Response in Opposition to Debtors' Fifty-Second Omnibus Objection to Claims (D.I. 5504); Response of Take Two Interactive Software, Inc. to Debtors' Fifty-Second Omnibus Objection to Claims (D.I. 5583).

part, the relief requested by the Debtors in the Omnibus Objections and heard oral argument from counsel to various creditors, including counsel to the Movants. At the conclusion of the Hearing, this Court took the Omnibus Objections under advisement.

### B. The Supplemental Response.

- 5. Following the Hearing, on November 13, 2009, the Movants filed, without leave of court, the Supplemental Response of Apex Digital, Inc. and THQ, Inc. to Debtors' Fifty-First Omnibus Objection to Certain 503(b)(9) Claims (D.I. 5666; the "Supplemental Response").
- 6. In the Supplemental Response, the Movants asserted that the Debtors presented a new argument for the first time at the Hearing, which argument the respondents had not had an opportunity to brief. See Supplemental Response, at ¶ 1. Thus, the balance of the Supplemental Response addressed the Debtors' "wholly unfounded" contention that the that holders of section 503(b)(9) administrative claims were creditors required to file proofs of claim. Id. at ¶ 3.

#### C. The Memorandum Opinion and Order.

On January 6, 2010, the Court issued its Memorandum Opinion and Order on the Omnibus Objections (D.I. 6228 & 6228-1; the "Opinion"). In the Opinion, the Court held that Bankruptcy Code section 502(d) may be invoked to temporarily disallow an administrative claim asserted under section 503(b)(9). In reaching this holding, the Court concluded that a claimant asserting a section 503(b)(9) must file a proof of claim under section 501 in order to have such claim allowed as an administrative expense under section 503(b)(9). Opinion, at 12 ("Although Claimants may be entitled to administrative expense status under § 503(b)(9), they are also creditors within the meaning of § 101(10)(A) and, as such, were required to file a proof of claim under § 501(a) in accordance with Rules 3002 and 3003 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure.").

#### D. The Reconsideration Motion.

8. On January 13, 2010, the Movants filed the Reconsideration Motion.<sup>3</sup> As the basis for the relief

Various other Respondents have joined in the Reconsideration Motion. See Joinder of Paramount Home Entertainment Inc. to (cont'd)

requested, the Movants contend that the Court did not consider their Supplemental Response in rendering its judgment. Reconsideration Motion at ¶ 1 (citing footnote 5 of the Opinion, and stating that because the Supplemental Response was not listed, it was "not among the pleadings considered by the Court"). Thus, the Movants apparently contend that this Court was required to review the Supplemental Response and if it does so, it will reconsider the Opinion and Order and rule that section 502(d) cannot be used to temporarily disallow claims asserted under section 503(b)(9). Id. at ¶¶ 2-6.

<sup>(</sup>cont'd from previous page)

Motion of Apex Digital, Inc. and THQ, Inc. for Reconsideration of Court's Order on Debtors' Fifty-First and Fifty-Second Omnibus Objections (D.I. 6323); PNY Technologies, Inc.'s Joinder to Motion of Apex Digital, Inc. and THQ, Inc. for Reconsideration of Court's Order on Debtors' Fifty-First and Fifty-Second Omnibus Objections (D.I. 6322); Olympus Corporation and Olympus Imaging America Inc.'s Joinder to Motion of Apex Digital, Inc. and THQ, Inc. for Reconsideration of Court's Order on Debtors' Fifty-First and Fifty-Second Omnibus Objections (D.I. 6349); Onkyo USA Corporation's Joinder to Motion of Apex Digital, Inc. and THO, Inc. for Reconsideration of Court's Order on Debtors' Fifty-First and Fifty-Second Omnibus Objection (D.I. 6351); Joinder of Toshiba America Consumer Products, L.L.C. to Motion of Apex Digital, Inc. and THQ, Inc. for Reconsideration of Court's Order on Debtors' Fifty-First and Fifty-Second Omnibus Objections (D.I. 6370).

#### OBJECTION

9. As demonstrated below, the Court should deny the Reconsideration Motion. The Movants have failed to establish that the standard applicable to granting the Reconsideration Motion has been satisfied. Indeed, the Movants do not even cite the applicable standard in the Reconsideration Motion, and none of their arguments constitute grounds for this Court to reconsider its Opinion or Order. Moreover, the Reconsideration Motion seeks nothing more than to have this Court consider arguments already made and rejected.

## I. THE STANDARD APPLICABLE TO A MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION.

as a motion for new trial or to alter or amend a judgment, and consequently, this Court should review the Reconsideration Motion as a motion made pursuant to Civil Rule 59(e). Calabi v. Heckler, 820 F.2d 1219 (Table) (4<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1987) (noting that motion for reconsideration filed within ten days of entry of order is treated as a motion to alter or amend the judgment under Fed. R. Civ. P. 59); In re E.M. Williams & Sons,

Inc., 2009 WL 2211727, \*1 (Bankr. E.D. Va. July 17, 2009)
(Huennekens, J.) (same). Pursuant to that Rule, the
motion must be made "no later than 14 days after entry
of judgment," Fed. R. Bankr. P. 9023, and may be
granted in one of the following three circumstances: "(i)
to accommodate an intervening change in controlling law;
(ii) to account for new evidence not available at the
hearing; or (iii) to correct a clear error of law or
prevent manifest injustice." Ingle v. Yelton, 439 F.3d
191, 197 (4th Cir. 2006) (citations omitted).

Rule 59(e), a court must be mindful of the fact that the relief is "extraordinary" and only should be granted sparingly. See Pacific Insurance Co. v American

National Fire Insurance Co., 148 F.3d 396, 403 (4th Cir. 1998) ("In general 'reconsideration of a judgment after its entry is an extraordinary remedy which should be used sparingly.'" (citations omitted)); see also In re

E.M. Williams & Sons, Inc., 2009 WL 2211727, \*1 (noting that reconsideration may be appropriate where the court has misunderstood a party, or its decision is outside of the adversarial issue presented by the parties, or the

court has made an error not of reasoning but of apprehension, but that such circumstances are rare).

Moreover, such motions may not be used to raise new arguments or novel legal theories that could have been raised in the first instance. See Pacific Insurance,

148 F.3d at 403; see also 11 Wright et al., Federal

Practice and Procedure § 2810.1, at 127-28 (2d ed. 1995)

("The Rule 59(e) motion may not be used to relitigate old matters, or to raise arguments or present evidence that could have been raised prior to the entry of judgment.").

- II. THE MOVANTS HAVE FAILED TO SATISFY THE STANDARD FOR RELIEF UNDER CIVIL RULE 59(E).
  - A. The Alleged Failure To Review The Supplemental Response Does Not Warrant Reconsideration.
- 12. As set forth above, the Movants contend that reconsideration is appropriate because the Court allegedly failed to review the Movants' Supplemental Response. Although the Debtors believe the Court reviewed the Supplemental Response and all other pleadings submitted, but merely failed to list the Supplemental Response in footnote 5 to the Opinion, the purported failure to review the Movants' Supplemental

Response is not a grounds for granting the Reconsideration Motion.

13. Specifically, even assuming that the Court did not review the Supplemental Response, the failure to do so does not constitute grounds for reconsideration. The failure to review the Supplemental Response is neither (i) an intervening change in controlling law nor (ii) new evidence not available at the hearing. Moreover, the failure to review the Supplement Response does not constitute a clear error of law, nor is it necessary to prevent manifest injustice. See Motorists Mut. Ins. Co. v. Teel's Restaurant Inc., 2009 WL 5065223, \*1 (N.D. Ind. Dec. 23, 2009) (holding that the court's failure to consider a reply brief in support of a motion for summary judgment before issuing its ruling was not manifest error of law such that motion for reconsideration should be granted); Ogbevoen v. Aramark Campus, Inc., 2006 WL 1788430, \*1 (S.D. Tex. June 20, 2006) (holding that the court did not err in failing to consider reply in support of motion for summary judgment when reply was filed after deadline established by the court); Cotracom Commodity Trading Co.

- v. Seaboard Corp., 193 F.R.D. 696, 699 (D. Kan. 2000)

  ("That the Court failed to consider the reply brief thus provides no basis to reconsider the ruling concerning the duty to confer.").
- In fact, the Court simply had no obligation to review the Supplemental Response. Colodney v. Sebelius, 2009 WL 4884501, \*1 n.1 (D. Md. Dec. 9, 2009) (noting that the court has discretion to disregard untimely filed reply to motion for summary judgment); see also In re Frazer, 2008 WL 877786, \*3 (Bankr. D. Mont. Mar. 27, 2008) (reasoning that the court has discretion to disregard late-filed posthearing supplemental brief); Hayes v. Konteh, 2008 WL 596097, \*2 (N.D. Ohio Mar. 4, 2008) ("[T]he Court need not consider this untimely objection . . . . "); accord U.S. v. Ramirez, 148 F. App'x 721, 727-28 (10th Cir. 2005) ("We need not consider this or Mr. Ramirez's other claims . . . which were subsequently contained in a supplemental pleading that the district court determined was untimely filed. With respect to the latter, the district court clearly did not abuse its discretion in

finding the supplemental memorandum of law was untimely filed."), cert. denied, 547 U.S. 1009, (2006).

Movants to file the Supplemental Response and all of the briefing on the Omnibus Objections and whether section 502(d) could be applied to temporarily disallow section 503(b) administrative claims had already been concluded.

See Porter v. Adams, 2008 WL 880544, \*1 (E.D. Cal. Mar. 31, 2008) (denying motion for reconsideration on grounds that the court failed to consider petitioner's supplemental brief when the court did not request petitioner to file supplemental brief and petitioner already had opportunity to fully brief issues).

Therefore, even assuming that the Court did not review

See also Rojas v. City of New Brunswick, 2007 WL 1101439, \*3

(D.N.J. Apr. 9, 2007) ("[T]he Court notes that it need not consider Plaintiff's motion because it is untimely."); Lozaya v. Garrou Const., Inc., 2006 WL 1028869, \*1 n.1 (D. Colo. Apr. 17, 2006) ("The Court directed Plaintiff's response to be filed no later than April 3, 2006. Plaintiff filed his Response on April 6, 2006. The Court need not consider this untimely filing ..."); Galaxy Ventures, LLC v. Rosenblum, 2005 WL 5988690, \*1 (D.N.M. July 21, 2005) ("the Court is not obligated to consider Plaintiff's late response" to motion to strike an expert report); Marshall v. Gates, 812 F.Supp. 1050, 1057 n.25 (C.D. Cal. 1993) ("[A] court, in its discretion, can disregard untimely filed opposition materials."), rev'd on other grounds, 44 F.3d 722 (9th Cir. 1995).

the Supplemental Response, that fact would not warrant granting the Reconsideration Motion.

## B. The Supplemental Response Does Not Provide Any Grounds To Grant The Reconsideration Motion.

- 16. Even assuming the Court were to consider the Supplemental Response, it does not provide any grounds for granting the Reconsideration Motion.
- 17. First, the Supplemental Response does not advise the Court of an intervening change in controlling law. Indeed, no such change has occurred.
- 18. Second, in the Supplemental Response, the Movants have not alleged, nor could they, that some new "evidence" exists that was not available at the Hearing. Indeed, as this Court knows, the Debtors' Omnibus Objections were sustained on the Debtors' legal argument alone. Thus, the Movants also cannot avail themselves of the second grounds on which a motion for reconsideration may be granted.
- 19. Third, the Supplemental Response does not allege, much less prove, that the Reconsideration Motion should be granted "to . . . prevent manifest injustice."

  Indeed, at least one other Court has held that section

502(d) can be used to disallow claims asserted under section 503(b). See Microage, Inc. v. Viewsonic Corp.

(In re Microage, Inc.), 291 B.R. 503 (B.A.P. 9th Cir. 2002). And, in this instance, the Court only held that the section 503(b)(9) claims were "temporarily" disallowed. Thus, there is no sense in which this Court's Opinion and Order may be characterized as having visited a "manifest injustice" upon the Movants or other section 503(b)(9) claimants.

position is that the Reconsideration Motion should be granted to correct a clear error of law, which error of law is allegedly demonstrated in the Supplemental Response. Even assuming, however, that the legal position set forth in the Supplemental Response was correct, which it is not, the Supplemental Response does not demonstrate that this Court made a clear error of law. In fact, as demonstrated below, regardless of whether or not the Court reviewed the Supplemental Response, that Response merely sets forth arguments that the Court considered and rejected. Thus, it provided no basis to grant the Reconsideration Motion, only

challenges for an appeal. Pacific Insurance, 148 F.3d at 403 (noting that "[t]he [Civil] Rule 59(e) motion may not be used to re-litigate an old matter . . ."

(citation omitted)); see also Federal Practice at 127-28

(2d ed. 1995) ("The Rule 59(e) motion may not be used to relitigate old matters, or to raise arguments or present evidence that could have been raised prior to the entry of judgment.")

21. Specifically, from the outset, the

Debtors have taken the position that section 503(b)(9)

claimants were creditors holding pre-petition claims.

See Briefs, at 8 ("Thus, by definition, section 503(b)(9)

administrative expenses are pre-petition claims."). In

response to that position, a number of Respondents

argued that because section 503(b)(9) granted any such

"claims" administrative expense status, they were not

required to file proofs of claim under Bankruptcy Code

section 501. In that regard, they relied in part on In

re Plastech Eng'r Prods., 394 B.R. 147, 162 (Bankr. E.D.

Mich. 2008), and its holding that sections 501 and 503

are exclusive. In addition, the Respondents asserted

that, under the Fourth Circuit's decision in Durham v.

SMI Indus. Corp., because they were not required to file a proof of claim under section 503(b), section 502(d) could not be used to disallow their section 503(b)(9) claim. See, e.g., Samsung Electronics America, Inc.'s Memorandum of Law in Opposition to Debtors' Fifty-Second Omnibus Objection to Claims (D.I. 5500), at 11 (arguing that there are procedural differences between the filing and allowance of claims under sections 501 and 502 and administrative expenses under section 503); Response of Paramount Home Entertainment Inc. to Debtors' Fifty-Second Omnibus Objection to Certain 503(b)(9) Claims (D.I. 5434), at 7 (arguing that 502(d) does not apply to 503(b)(9) claims because Code provisions differ for allowance of claims as opposed to administrative expenses, which is consistent with the holding of Durham in the Fourth Circuit).

22. Critically, in the Debtors' written

Briefs, the Debtors expressly addressed this argument

stating that:

[A]ssuming, <u>arguendo</u>, that the Claimants are obligated to file a proof of claim, <u>see Durham v. SMI Industries Corp.</u>, 882 F.2d at 883, section 502(d) still applies to the 503(b)(9) Claims at issue because

Official Form 10 also applies to administrative expense claims that arise pre-petition. See Official Form 10 ("NOTE: This form should not be used to make a claim for administrative expenses arising after the commencement of the case.") (emphasis added).

See Briefs, at 13.

- certain Respondents specifically addressed whether a claimant asserting a 503(b)(9) administrative claim is required to file proofs of claim under section 501(a).

  See, e.g., Samsung Electronics America, Inc.'s

  Memorandum of Law in Opposition to Debtors' Fifty-Second Omnibus Objection to Claims (D.I. 5500), at 11

  ("Furthermore, requests for administrative expenses are filed under Section 503(a) and not by proof of claim under 501(a) . . . Indeed, the proof of claim form recognizes this distinction providing that the form should not be used for administrative expenses which may be requested under Section 503.").
- 24. Furthermore, the legal authority cited by the Movants in the Supplemental Response for the proposition that a 503(b)(9) claimant need not file a proof of claim is neither new nor controlling in this

jurisdiction. Indeed, many of the cases cited by the Movants were cited by the Debtors in the Omnibus Objections and Omnibus Replies, as well as by various Respondents in the Responses, and discussed at length during the Hearing. See Supplemental Response at 3-4 (citing In re Plastech Eng'r Prods., 394 B.R. 147, 162 (Bankr. E.D. Mich. 2008); In re TI Acquisition, LLC, 410 B.R. 742, 750 (Bankr. N.D. Ga. 2009); and, In re Ames, 582 F.3d 422, 429 (2d Cir. 2009), each of which had been previously cited). These same cases were also cited by the Court in its Opinion. Thus, there can be little if any dispute that the Court was aware of the legal arguments proffered by the Movants, and fully considered them in depth before rendering the Opinion and Order, notwithstanding the fact that the Supplemental Response was not expressly referred to in footnote 5 to the Opinion.

25. Additionally, the very issue and arguments raised in the Supplemental Response were addressed at length during the Hearing on the Omnibus Objections. In particular, the Court initiated a colloquy with respect to the issue when it inquired

whether the <u>Durham</u> decision was controlling in this instance. <u>See</u> Transcript, at 97:10-18 ("[I]t's the <u>Durham v. SMI Industries</u> case where it said that since a Court can only disallow a claim after one has been filed under Section 501(a) and Section 502(d) includes only one for which a proof of claim has been filed and there they wouldn't let the trustee use 502 to defeat an admin claim. Why -- is this Court bound by the Fourth Circuit's decision there?").

the Movants and other Respondents were in attendance at the Hearing and participated in the colloquy. See

Transcript, at 129-31:1-4 (counsel for the Movants stating "So the plain language of Section 502(d) itself and then the structure of Sections 502 and 503 working together I think make it very clear that Section 503(b)(9) administrative expenses are not subject to disallowance under Section 502(d)."). Moreover, a number of other Respondents also addressed the issue.

See Transcript at p. 107 (counsel for Paramount Home Entertainment stating that "Claims were indeed filed by proofs of claim because this Court ordered claims to be

filed by proofs of claim if they were 503(b)(9) claims.

503(a) doesn't require it to be that way. It can be a request for payment as opposed to a proof of claim . . . "); Id., at 112 (counsel for Samsung stating that "I think its dealt with as an admin claim under 503 and you file it as 503 . . . I don't think there's anything in the code [sic] that says you have to file that under 501.").

27. Thus, the Movants' assertion that their
Supplemental Response was the first opportunity to brief
the issue is a red herring. The specific issue was
addressed at length before and at the Hearing, and the
Supplemental Response is nothing more than an attempt to
re-litigate an issue that has already been presented to
and addressed by the Court. That is not a valid basis
for granting relief under Rule 59(e). See Puller v.
Unisource Worldwide, Inc., 2009 WL 903303, \*1 (E.D. Va.
March 31, 2009)(stating that a motion for
reconsideration is not an opportunity for a litigant
"'to ask the Court to rethink what the Court had already
thought through.[,]'" and quoting Above the Belt, Inc. v.
Mel Bohannan Roofing, Inc., 99 F.R.D. 99, 101 (E.D. Va.

1983)); see also Zdanok v. Glidden Co., 327 F.2d 944,
953 (2d Cir. 1964) ("[W]here litigants have once battled
for the Court's decision, they should neither be
required, nor without good reason permitted, to battle
for it again."). Accordingly, the Reconsideration
Motion should be denied.

# III. CLAIMANTS ASSERTING A SECTION 503(B)(9) ADMINISTRATIVE CLAIM WERE REQUIRED TO FILE A PROOF OF CLAIM AND A REQUEST FOR PAYMENT OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE.

consider the arguments made by the Movants in the Supplemental Response, the Reconsideration Motion should still be denied because the Court correctly concluded that a claimant asserting a section 503(b)(9) administrative claim must file a proof of claim and a request for payment of an administrative expense. See Opinion, at 11 ("Therefore, Claimants as prepetition "creditors", must file their § 503(b)(9) claim under § 501(a) . . . If a "creditor" wishes to be granted an administrative priority under § 503(b)(9), then the creditor must, first, file a proof of claim under § 501, second, have the claim allowed under § 502, and then,

third, request administrative expense priority under  $\S$  503(a)."). $\S$ 

Movants contend that this Court committed legal error, relying for support on certain bankruptcy treatises. In particular, the Movants cite 9 Collier on Bankruptcy, ¶ 3002.01[1] at 3002-3 (Alan N. Resnick & Henry J. Sommers eds., 15<sup>th</sup> ed. rev.), for the proposition that "[t]he requirement that a proof of claim be filed extends to unsecured creditors claiming priorities but does not extend to costs of administration." Moreover, to

 $<sup>^{5}</sup>$  The Movants contend that "the Court has previously ruled in this case that a party seeking administrative expense reimbursement under section 503(b)(9) need only file a motion for allowance of administrative expense - not a proof of claim - to meet its procedural burden. See Reconsideration Motion at  $\P$  3 (citing Order Establishing Bar Date for Filing Requests for Payment of Administrative Expense Claims Under Bankruptcy Code Sections 105 and 503(b)(9) and Approving Form, Manner and Sufficiency of Notice of the Bar Date Pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 9007 (Docket No. 107)(the "Section 503(b)(9) Bar Date Order"). The Section 503(b)(9) Bar Date Order did not constitute a substantive ruling on the issue of whether a section 503(b)(9) claimant was or was not, as a matter of bankruptcy law, required to file a proof of claim. Instead, that Order was procedural in nature and made clear that in this case it was sufficient for an entity to file a Section 503(b)(9) Claim Request or, alternatively a motion seeking payment of a 503(b)(9) claim no later than the Section 503(b)(9) Bar Date to perfect its right to an administrative claim under section 503(b)(9). Thus, to the extent that the Debtors could have insisted on a claimant filing both a proof of claim and a request for payment, the Section 503(b)(9) Bar Date Order dispensed with that requirement. Instead, under that Order either was sufficient to preserve the claimant's right to seek an administrative expense.

explain that position, the Movants cite 2 <u>Norton</u>

<u>Bankruptcy Law and Practice 2d</u>, ¶ 42.14 at 42-76 to 42
77, which states that:

To begin with, § 503 is captioned "allowance" of administrative expenses." This appears to suggest that § 503 is a separate allowance section, apart from § 502, devoted exclusively to administrative expenses. If so, then § 502 would not apply to the allowance of administrative expenses. The rest of the statute is consistent with this reading. Section 507(a)(1) refers to 'administrative expenses allowed under section 503(b).' Note that the reference is to 'expenses' rather than 'claims,' the latter of which is handled under § 502. Also, of course, § 507(a)(1) specifically states that allowance is under § 503(b), implying that § 502 is out of the picture.

Colliers and Norton support the Movants' position, the authors themselves indicate some doubt in their position as the highlighted language demonstrates. The argument is simply that the caption of the section "appears to suggest" that section 503(b) is exclusive, and that such a reading "is consistent with" the rest of the statute.

As the Court determined, nothing in the statute, however, requires that section 501 and 503 be exclusive, and the

Court's reading is equally consistent with the rest of the statute.

- nothing in <u>Colliers</u> or <u>Norton</u> that suggests that the authors considered whether section 501 applied to prepetition administrative claims such as section 503(b)(9) administrative claims. Nor is the argument new, as the interpretation advanced by both <u>Colliers</u> and <u>Norton</u> regarding sections 501 and 503 being mutually exclusive is the interpretation adopted by the <u>Plastech</u> court.

  But, just as this Court was free to reject the <u>Plastech</u> court's holding, so too is it free to reject the position taken in Colliers and Norton.
- 32. Finally, and most importantly, the
  Court's reading is not only consistent sections 501 and
  503, it is consistent with the definitions of "creditor"
  and "claim," the use of those words in Bankruptcy Rules
  3002 and 3003, and the express directions in Official
  Form 10. Specifically, as explained in the Briefs and
  argued extensively at the Hearing, it cannot be disputed
  that an entity asserting a claim under section 503(b)(9)
  is a "creditor" holding a "claim". Briefs, at 18

(explaining why the 503(b)(9) Claimants are "creditors"). Moreover, there is nothing in the Bankruptcy Code nor the Bankruptcy Rules that excepts claimants asserting claims under section 503(b)(9) from filing a proof of claim.6 In fact, Bankruptcy Rule 3002(a) provides that "an unsecured creditor or an equity security holder must file a proof of claim or interest for the claim or interest to be allowed, except as provided in Rules 1019(3), 3003, 3004, and 3005." Fed. R. Bankr. P. 3002(a)(emphasis added). As the Court pointed out in its Opinion, none of the exceptions provided for in Bankruptcy Rule 3002 applies with respect to the 503(b)(9) Claimants. See Opinion, at p. 11 n.13. as "creditors," section 503(b)(9) Claimants were obligated to file proofs of claim in order to receive distributions from the Debtors' estates.

33. Furthermore, as the Court also noted, this conclusion is buttressed by Official Form 10, the

In some instances, an unsecured pre-petition creditor, including a section 503(b)(9) claimant, need not file a proof of claim. Specifically, when the creditor's claim is scheduled, but not scheduled as contingent, disputed or unliquidated. See Bankruptcy Rule 3002. In such circumstances, although no proof of claim has been filed, the pre-petition creditor's scheduled claim is still subject to an objection pursuant to section 502(d).

official Proof of Claim form. Specifically, that form contains the following note: "NOTE: This form should not be used to make a claim for administrative expenses arising after the commencement of the case." See

Official Form 10 (emphasis added). Consequently, the official Proof of Claim form contemplates a distinction between pre-filing and post-filing administrative claims and only provides that Official Form 10 should not be used for post-filing claims for administrative expense.

34. Therefore, this Court did not commit a clear error of law by holding that entities seeking to assert administrative claims under section 503(b)(9) must file proofs of claim. Thus, the Court's decision is not at odds with the Fourth Circuit's decision in <a href="Durham">Durham</a> and no grounds exist for altering or amending the judgment that section 502(d) may be used to temporarily disallowing claims asserted under section 503(b)(9). Accordingly, for the reasons stated herein, the Reconsideration Motion should be denied.

#### CONCLUSION

WHEREFORE, the Debtors respectfully request that the Court (i) sustain this Objection, (ii) deny the Motion and (iii) grant the Debtors such other and further relief as is just and proper.

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